



Missouri Nursery Pest News

Office of the State Entomologist
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Timely information for Missouri's green industry!

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This is no April Fool!

Recent Observations and Notes from Field Staff

In the east-central counties of MO signs of spring are showing as many plants are blooming. This includes Saucer Magnolia, which serves as an indicator plant according to the book "Coincide," by Don Orton. At **pink bud** it lists the following pests as being vulnerable to control efforts: Cooley and Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgids, Spruce Needle Miner, Hemlock and Spruce Eriophyid Mites, Spruce Spider Mites, European Pine Shoot Moth, Leaf Crumplers, Tent caterpillars and Zimmerman Pine Moth. At **full bloom**, Juniper Webworm, Fletcher Scale, Spring and Fall Cankerworms and Ash Plant Bugs are listed as vulnerable. At **late bloom to petal drop stage**, (Redbuds will be blooming be then) Eastern Pine Sawfly, Hawthorn Mealybug, HoneyLocust Pod Gall, Spruce Budworm and Willow Aphid are among the list of vulnerable pests.

Also blooming are many fruiting and ornamental fruit-type trees. This is the time to treat for several blights including Fireblight, which has been seen much more often during the last few years. Prune out diseased branches during dormant period 12" below cankered area. Disinfect pruners after each cut with a hypochlorite solution. Spray at blossom time to reduce infection. (If using Streptomycin spray, do NOT mix with other chemicals for application). Use the following: Spray 1 at first tinge of color on buds; Spray 2 when 10% of buds are open; Spray 3 at full bloom; Spray 4 when all buds have fallen. Disease pressure and need for sprays at blossom time is greatest when max temps are above 65 F, especially when accompanied by rain or high humidity.

Many other trees have swollen buds or just starting first leaf expansion. Often many gall pests are active or vulnerable at this stage. Control for most galls are recommended only if severe or causing detrimental growth to trees and often they are better controlled by removing the galls where practical due to short period of vulnerability.

As you are receiving plant material, be sure to check for pest problems. Cankered areas, borer damage on bark, scale or egg masses, and rust galls are some common pests on new woody-type plants (be sure to check under the tree wraps), as well as some root-infesting pests like weevils and beetles. Signs of virus (mottled, yellow streaking, mosaic patterns, improper growth), downy mildew, and other fungal infections are often seen early in the growing period or perennials and some annuals. Damage from foliar nematodes is most often found later in the growth period, but careful scouting could prove worthy. Also keeping weeds under control in lath and greenhouses serves as a control for overwintering insects.

Contributions made by Susan Ehlenbeck and Nellie Brown.

Remember: Before using any chemical, always read the label carefully for directions on application procedures, appropriate rates, first aid, storage, and disposal. Make sure chemical is properly registered for use on the intended pest. Any products named are not intended as endorsements, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned. These recommendations are based on observations and conditions in Missouri.